



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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IM Single Point of Contact

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

As many of you know, Kevin Bruski, former Montana Dept. of Transportation (MDOT) Communications Bureau Chief, has accepted the position of Executive Director for the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project. As Bureau Chief, Bruski was in charge of the state's largest radio communications system, which included infrastructure development, budget administration, and oversight of planning, personnel, policies and procedures. Bruski has been employed by MDOT since 1979 and held a series of progressively more responsible positions within the organization since then.

His broad technical expertise includes communications infrastructure design for land mobile/microwave communications sites, microwave and wireless engineering path design, knowledge of safety and environmental regulations, construction and project management. In addition, Bruski has professional experience with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and licensing.

For the past four years, Bruski has been involved with the IM Project, serving as a Project Director representing MDOT on the IM board as well as performing as an active member of the IM Governance, Technical, and Administrative Technical Committees as well as the Microwave and Tower RFP and Retreat Sub-Committees. He also is the past chair of the Frequency Sub-Committee.

"Kevin's radio communications experience is vast, and his technical training is superlative," said Police Chief Alan Michaels, Chair of the IM Project Directors. "We are lucky to have him on board."

Here is Kevin Bruski's contact information:

Interoperability Montana
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Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

By Chris Christensen cchristensen@mt.gov

Ted Mead, Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and IM Project Director board member, invited Chris Christensen, PSSB, to brief the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group on the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project at its meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota on Tues., Nov. 18.

The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group is made up of local, state and federal agencies involved in wildland fire fighting and prevention. The group was very interested in the IM Project and asked many questions.

Areas of interest included the colored mutual aid channels, how to migrate on to the system, where has the new system been used, and how well is it working.

Alberta and Interoperability Montana Coordination Meeting

By Chris Christensen cchristensen@mt.gov

On Thurs., Nov. 22, Bill Meade of the Alberta Solicitor General's Office and Al Melenka with Service Alberta met with Sheena Wilson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Schweitzer, Kevin Bruski, IM Executive Director, Bob McWilliams, IM Technical Committee Chair, Dan Sullivan, DES Dept. of Homeland Security Grant Coordinator, Sheriff Leo Dutton, Lewis



and Clark County, and Chris Christensen, PSSB, in Helena.

From left to right: Dick Clark, ITSD CIO; Sheena Wilson, Governor's Office; Bill Meade, Alberta Solicitor General's Office; and Al Melenka, Service Alberta

The meeting is a part of an ongoing effort and commitment to create interoperability between the Province of Alberta and Montana. Alberta has just released its Request for Proposals (RFP) for its new radio communications system and will keep us informed as the process moves forward. Kevin Bruski provided an update on the IM Project, and a good roundtable discussion took place.

We look forward to an ongoing dialogue with our friends to the north and meeting with them again in Whitefish for the next Western Border Interoperability Working Group meeting in April, 2009.

MSPOA Executive Board Meeting

By Chris Christensen cchristensen@mt.gov

Chris Christensen, PSSB, briefed the Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA) Executive Board at its quarterly meeting in Glasgow on Wed., Nov. 19. He discussed impending 9-1-1 legislation, the lighting up of the Northern Tier, the IM sustainability plan, and the 1033 program. Good discussion took place about the sustainability plan, especially in relationship to site ownership and maintenance costs.



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Sheriff Daryl Anderson, MSPOA President, has made a commitment to move the Executive Board meeting around Montana to broaden exposure and involvement in the association.

IM and PSSB Attend COPS Training

By Scott Bradford sbradford@mt.gov

IM Finance Committee Chairman John Walsh, Butte-Silver Bow Sheriff and PSSB representative Scott Bradford attended the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant training held in San Diego Tues. and Wed., Nov. 18 and 19. The Department of Justice invited significant grant recipients to attend this seminar to better inform them of grant requirements and provide training on effective grant management.

The IM Project is utilizing the grant received by PSSB for radios, trunking expansion and mobile data technology. Information collected during this meeting will be used to better comply with all grant requirements and make effective management decisions.

IM Contract Management Sub-Committee Report

By Scott Bradford sbradford@mt.gov

The IM Contract Management (IMCM) Sub-Committee continues to review key elements necessary to close out vendor contracts on completed work. In a meeting held Fri., Nov. 21, the group focused on issues relating to the original Harris microwave contract connecting Northern Tier sites to the master zone controller in Helena. Network Sub-committee personnel are currently conducting site walks and collecting inventory information. This data will be compared with contracts, change orders, performance analysis, equipment lists and vendor reports to validate the completion of work and identify any remaining items to be addressed.

The sub-committee continues to work closely with the IM Technical Committee in cooperation with Harris-Stratex and Motorola to resolve remaining issues. A complete report will be made at the next IMCM meeting, tentatively scheduled for Dec. 12 at a location to be announced.

Looking ahead to 2009, the sub-committee will also review closeouts of microwave term contract task orders and contracted Motorola installation work.

Upcoming Meetings

Nov. 24

IM Technical Committee Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
State Capitol, Room 172

Nov. 25

IM Sustainability Plan Work Session
Helena • 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
DOC Annex, behind 515 N. Sanders

Public Safety Services Bureau
111 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 4-A; Arcade Building
P O Box 200117
Helena MT 59620-0117

Dec. 1

IM Finance Committee
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon
Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

Dec. 1

IM Governance Committee
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm
Dept. of Corrections Annex Conf. Rm.
Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

Dec. 2

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
State Capitol, Room 152

Dec. 4

Northern Tier Consortium (NTIC)
Havre • 9:00 am – noon
Great Northern Inn, 1345 1st St.

Dec. 5

Big Sky 11 Consortium
Billings • 10:00 am – noon
Billings Fire Station #1/EOC - 2300 9th Ave N.

Dec. 10

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)
Livingston • 10:00
City County Complex Community Rm.
414 East Callender St.

Dec. 17

Eastern Tier (ETIC)
Glendive • 10:00 am
Dawson County Courthouse Community Room
207 West Bell

Dec. 18

I-15/90 Corridor
Butte • 10:00 am
Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce,
1000 George St.

Jan. 7

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)
Great Falls • 10:00 am
Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW

Happy Thanksgiving!



Due to the holiday, the *Heard Across Montana* (HAM) newsletter will not be published next week.
Look for your next issue on Friday, Dec. 5.